

USPN. 10/600,461
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Group A.U.: 1743

In the Claims.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A disposable support for a container assembly for treating biological samples in cytocentrifuges, the container assembly comprising a vertical flat supporting base, a wall protruding at right angles from the supporting base, at least one funnel supported by the wall and provided in a lower region thereof with a corresponding horizontal connection channel, a slide, and a filtering card, the support being formed from a single element made of molded plastic material and comprising: a flat supporting body provided with protruding edges; clamp means provided at said edges and made integral therewith for accommodating and retaining, in succession, the slide, the filtering card and the base of the container; and a transverse pivot protruding from said supporting body and made as an integral part thereof for fixing the support to a cytocentrifuge.

2. (original) The support of claim 1, further comprising elastic means for taking up, upon accommodation of the slide, filtering card and container base, mounting plays, said elastic means being made integral with said supporting body in a region where the slide rests.

3. (original) The support of claim 1, wherein said protruding edges comprise longitudinal edges and a protruding lower edge.

4. (original) The support of claim 3, comprising respective longitudinal channels formed at said longitudinal edges that connect the longitudinal edges to said supporting body.

5. (original) The support of claim 3, wherein said lower edge has at least one perpendicular containment tab.

6. (original) The support of claim 1, wherein said clamp means are constituted by two mutually opposite hook-shaped tabs, which are sized so as to retain between ends thereof and said supporting body the slide, the filtering card and the supporting base of the container, said hook-shaped tabs comprising

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respective levers that extend towards a rear part of said supporting body.

7. (original) The support of claim 2, wherein said elastic means for taking up the mounting plays is constituted by a longitudinal bridge element that protrudes from a part of the supporting base where said slide rests, said bridge element being shaped as a leaf spring.

8. (new) A disposable support for a container assembly for treating biological samples in cytocentrifuges, the container assembly comprising a container with a vertical flat supporting base, a slide, and a filtering card, the support being a single monolithic molded plastic element that comprises: a flat supporting body provided with protruding edges; clamp means provided at said edges and made integral therewith for accommodating and retaining, in succession, the slide, the filtering card and the base of the container; and a transverse pivot protruding from said supporting body and made as an integral part thereof for fixing the support to a cytocentrifuge.

9. (new) The support of claim 8, further comprising elastic means for taking up, upon accommodation of the slide, filtering card and container base, mounting plays, said elastic means being made integral with said supporting body in a region where the slide rests.

10. (new) The support of claim 8, wherein said protruding edges comprise longitudinal edges and a protruding lower edge.

11. (new) The support of claim 10, comprising respective longitudinal channels formed at said longitudinal edges that connect the longitudinal edges to said supporting body.

12. (new) The support of claim 10, wherein said lower edge has at least one perpendicular containment tab.

13. (new) The support of claim 8, wherein said clamp means are constituted by two mutually opposite hook-shaped tabs, which are sized so as to retain between ends thereof and said supporting body the slide, the filtering card and the supporting base of the container, said hook-shaped tabs comprising

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respective levers that extend towards a rear part of said supporting body.

14. (new) The support of claim 9, wherein said elastic means for taking up the mounting plays is constituted by a longitudinal bridge element that protrudes from a part of the supporting base where said slide rests, said bridge element being shaped as a leaf spring.

15. (new) A disposable support for a container assembly for treating biological samples in cytocentrifuges, the container assembly comprising a container with a vertical flat supporting base, a slide, and a filtering card, the support being a single monolithic molded plastic element that comprises: a flat supporting body provided with protruding edges; clamp means provided at said edges and made integral therewith and which have integrally formed levers adapted for finger actuation that produces an elastic flexing motion thereof such as to move apart the clamp means for accommodating and retaining, in succession, the slide, the filtering card and the base of the container; and a transverse pivot protruding from said supporting body and made as an integral part thereof for fixing the support to a cytocentrifuge.

16. (new) The support of claim 15, further comprising elastic means for taking up, upon accommodation of the slide, filtering card and container base, mounting plays, said elastic means being made integral with said supporting body in a region where the slide rests.

17. (new) The support of claim 15, wherein said protruding edges comprise longitudinal edges and a protruding lower edge.

18. (new) The support of claim 17, wherein said lower edge has at least one perpendicular containment tab.

19. (new) The support of claim 15, wherein said clamp means are constituted by two mutually opposite hook-shaped tabs, which are sized so as to retain between ends thereof and said supporting body the slide, the filtering card and the supporting base of the container, said hook-shaped tabs being each provided shaped integral with a respective one of said levers that extend towards a

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rear part of said supporting body.

20. (new) The support of claim 16, wherein said elastic means for taking up the mounting plays is constituted by a longitudinal bridge element that protrudes from a part of the supporting base where said slide rests, said bridge element being shaped as a leaf spring.